Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) In an array of comparators, a method for increasing a rate at which a comparator in a metastable condition transitions to a steady state, comprising the steps of:

(1) identifying, in the array of comparators, the comparator in the metastable condition; and

(2) providing a bias current to said identified comparator in the metastable condition, such that the rate at which the comparator in the metastable condition transitions to the steady state is increased.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said providing step comprises the step of:

controlling a current output from a variable current source that provides the bias current for a latch circuit of said identified comparator in the metastable condition.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said identifying step comprises the steps of:

(a) comparing a characteristic of a first comparator of the array of comparators with a characteristic of a second comparator of the array of comparators, wherein the first comparator and the second comparator are separated in the array of comparators by a third comparator in the array of comparators; and

(b) determining if the third comparator is the comparator in the metastable condition based on said compared characteristics.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said comparing step comprises the step of:

receiving the characteristics as inputs to an Exclusive OR gate.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, said providing step comprises the step of:

controlling a current output from a variable current source that provides the bias current for a latch circuit of said identified comparator in the metastable condition with an output of the Exclusive OR gate.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ In an array of comparators, a method ~~of claim 17, wherein said providing step comprises the step of~~ for increasing a rate at which a comparator in a metastable condition transitions to a steady state, comprising the steps of:

(1) comparing a characteristic of a first comparator of the array of comparators with a characteristic of a second comparator of the array of comparators by receiving the characteristics as inputs to an Exclusive OR gate, wherein the first comparator and the second comparator are separated in the array of comparators by a third comparator in the array of comparators;

(2) determining if the third comparator is the comparator in the metastable condition based on said compared characteristics; and

(3) connecting a first current source in parallel with a second current source to increase the bias current for a latch circuit of said ~~identified~~ determined comparator in the metastable condition.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

controlling a switch that connects the first current source in parallel with the second current source with an output of the Exclusive OR gate.

21. (Original) In an array of comparators that includes a first, a second, and a third comparator, a method for increasing a rate at which the third comparator transitions to a steady state, comprising the steps of:

(1) comparing an output of the first comparator with an output of the second comparator; and

(2) providing a bias current to the third comparator based on said compared first and second outputs.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said comparing step comprises the step of:

receiving the first and second outputs as inputs to an Exclusive OR gate.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said providing step comprises the step of:

controlling a variable current source that provides the bias current for a latch circuit of the third comparator based on an output of the Exclusive OR gate.

24. (Original) ~~The~~ In an array of comparators that includes a first, a second, and a third comparator, a method ~~of claim 21, wherein said providing step comprises the step of~~ for increasing a rate at which the third comparator transitions to a steady state, comprising the steps of:

(1) comparing an output of the first comparator with an output of the second comparator; and

(2) providing a bias current to the third comparator based on said compared first and second outputs by connecting a first current source in parallel with a second current source to increase the bias current for a latch circuit of the third comparator.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:

controlling a switch that connects the first current source in parallel with the second current source based on an output of an Exclusive OR gate.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.